

December's New Medals!

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Hopefully you've recovered from the Thanksgiving holiday, both in terms of its large amounts of food and in-person shopping (*which is always best to be avoided*). Our meal consisted of a nice, quiet evening with the spread shown above—*essentially all of which has since been consumed in endless rounds of leftovers*. Given the mentioning of a thanksgiving, it also brings us to the first item in this upload: a 1589 Dutch jeton issued in commemoration of the English defeat of the Spanish Armada and the thanksgiving that ensued...



Since England and the Dutch Republic were in close alliance at the time, the number of Dutch-produced jetons pertaining to favorable aspects in contemporary English history shouldn't be surprising—especially those that painted common enemy Spain in a demeaning light. The English defeat of the mighty Spanish Armada was instrumental in the continued reign of Elizabeth I, Protestantism in England, and English seafaring might for centuries to come.

Speaking of English queens and military successes, there is this 1704 silver medal that celebrates similar victories, *both by land and sea*, from just over a 100 years later...



Graded PCGS MS-62, this example presents a superior level of preservation for the type, with a deep gray tone and enchanting brilliance shimmering in the fields.

Switching back the overindulgent eating that tends to occur on Thanksgiving, there is this early 20th century uniface bronze plaque from the Bohemian region that would eventually become Czechoslovakia just a few years later...



Entitled *Temptation*, it features a rather provocative scene in which a fairly rotund man (possibly from eating far too much turkey) seems to be propositioning a woman into his bed, with numerous forms of compensation all around him.



Since it's now December, it's just a few more weeks until the shortest day of the year in the Northern Hemisphere, at which point the sun begins giving us steadily more minutes of light each day...



Those additional rays of sunshine will no doubt be greatly anticipated by many, Meanwhile, this early 18th century “Kerzendreier” from Nürnberg was likely used for Baptisms—either as a gift for the parents and godparents or in trade at the church for the purpose of buying a baptism candle.

Lastly, here’s a fairly intriguing work in silver by the Swedish sculptor/engraver Carl Milles...



Entitled *Vindarnas lek*, or the “Playfulness of the Winds,” it features a mythological scene focused upon the high seas, with a nude mail seizing a mermaid, and two tritons and an ichthyocentaur appearing as well. It also features the artist’s rather distinctive style, all while possessing some immensely colorful toning.

For all of this upload’s items, please click [here](#) or on the banner art below. We will be back again for our final upload of 2023 on December 15th.



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